



EPA Region 9 Indian Country Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST)

Indian Country Corrective Action Update

May 2006

The Indian Country Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUST) Corrective Action Initiative seeks to assess and clean up abandoned LUST sites on tribal lands. The initiative uses monies from the Federal LUST Trust Fund and is a coordinated effort between tribal nations and EPA. This initiative follows a February 2005 memorandum from EPA Headquarters that allows the Regions greater flexibility in the use of the trust fund for site assessments and corrective actions in Indian Country.

The policies in the 2005 memorandum have expedited the process for determining site eligibility for use of the LUST trust fund in the Regions. Over the past few years, Region 9 has been working with tribes in California, Arizona, and Nevada to identify over 200 potential LUST sites on 17 different tribal lands. EPA has been conducting LUST site assessments and cleanups through the use of a contractor, Bristol Environmental, which is a Native Alaskan-owned firm. This contractor was selected by EPA Headquarters to support the Regions with site assessments and cleanups at eligible tank sites on tribal lands throughout the country.

Carlos Apache lands. No contamination was found during these site assessments. All of the tanks and associated piping and debris were taken offsite and disposed of at an authorized disposal facility.

On March 13, 2006, Region 9 received approval from EPA Headquarters to conduct six new site assessment/corrective actions on the lands of the Navajo Nation and Tohono O'odham Nation. This work is scheduled to begin during the spring of 2006. Region 9 expects to get approval for up to 19 more site assessments and/or corrective action projects throughout Indian Country in calendar year 2006. Additionally, Region 9 is working with tribes and EPA Headquarters to implement a five-year plan to address all eligible LUST sites in Indian Country. Region 9 will provide the next project update in the fall of 2006.

Need More Information?

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**EPA Region 9 Underground
Storage Tank Program Website**
[http://www.epa.gov/region9/
waste/ust/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/region9/waste/ust/index.html)

EPA Region 9 LUST Website
[http://www.epa.gov/region9/
waste/ust/lustcleanup.html](http://www.epa.gov/region9/waste/ust/lustcleanup.html)

The LUST trust fund has been used to address ten sites in Region 9, with the majority located in Arizona. The sites include a large scale corrective action project on the Gila River Indian reservation, as well as nine site assessments on the Hopi and San

Excavation of a potential leaking underground storage tank at a Hopi site.





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